

Delaware County Sustainability Commission

September 17, 2021



Commission Meetings

- This meeting is being recorded and live-streamed.
- The recording and minutes will be posted to the Sustainability Commission website.

NEW FORMAT:

- Commission members are “panelists” and can unmute themselves at any time.
- Public attendees are present but muted. Anyone from the public can attend by registering on our website to receive the Zoom link.
- Public comments can be given through the Q&A box, at any time. For tonight’s meeting, we will not be hosting an open public comment period. Public input can also be sent to SustainDelco@co.delaware.pa.us



Sustainability Commission Charge

- To create recommendations regarding best environmental and energy practices in the areas of buildings, facilities and operations; fuels, vehicles, and transportation; food; responsible purchasing; housing; energy sources; air quality; stormwater management; natural and cultural resource protection, wildlife preservation; and climate change
- To identify and assess environmental and energy policies the County has adopted and provide recommendations to promote and educate about the County's environmental and energy initiatives.
- To identify and provide recommendations regarding voluntary actions, projects, and programs for municipalities, businesses, non-profits, and other partners to implement County environmental and energy policies.
- To create, review and provide ongoing input into a Delaware County Sustainability Action Plan.
- To recommend Triple Bottom Line-related actions, projects, and programs to Council for implementation.



Agenda

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Approval of August Meeting Minutes
- Chief Sustainability Officer Update: Francine Locke
- Recommendations for Resolution Amendments
- Comments on Clean Air for DEP Hearing 9/22/21
- Delaware County Solid Waste Management Hearing 9/30/21
- Sustainability Plan – High-Level Goals: Sharon Jaye
- Sustainability Outreach Plan: Sharon Jaye
- New Business/Announcements
- Adjourn



Approval of August Meeting Minutes



Public Comment: SustainDelco@co.delaware.pa.us

Chief Sustainability Officer Update

Presenter: Francine Locke



Public Comment: SustainDelco@co.delaware.pa.us

Communications Update



- Social Media

Twitter: [@SustainDelCo](https://twitter.com/SustainDelCo)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sustaindelco/>

Instagram: https://instagram.com/sustain_delco

- Email adjusted for branding purposes:
SustainDelco@co.Delaware.pa.us
- Always taking suggestions for master stakeholder engagement list (associations, EACs, non-profits, etc.) – email suggestions to:
jayes@co.delaware.pa.us
- Website update:
<https://www.delcopa.gov/sustainability/index.html>



Program Updates:



- [C-PACE Program](#) – no bites yet, need help spreading the word
- FY22 CIP is moving through committee
- FCNA draft reports in – discuss scheduling presentation to SC later in the meeting
- Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional [Power Purchase Agreement](#) RFP went out a few weeks ago – deadline is 10/8/21
- Solid Waste Management Plan [Consultant RFP](#) has been posted.



PADEP's Local Climate Action Program (LCAP)

- LCAP cohort has started.
- Started meeting with our two students from Bryn Mawr:
 - Saiqian Xiao and Estefania Torres
- May have the students perform initial outreach/interviews with municipalities, EACs, NGOs on the sustainability plan's baseline assessment



Apply for Green Ways Grant

- Green Ways Grants are available to Delaware County municipalities
- No match required
- Non-profits can apply w/ municipal partner
- Non-competitive Mini-PROS Plans for small communities
- Connect projects for trail engineering to allow up to \$250,000 cap
- **Due today!!!!**

<https://t.co/v5QL7oLmKA?amp=1>



**GREEN
WAYS**

DELCO
GREEN SPACE
AND TRAILS
PROJECT

Questions?

Check for Public Comment:
SustainDelco@co.delaware.pa.us



Recommendations for Resolution Amendment



Public Comment: SustainDelco@co.delaware.pa.us

Proposed Amendment Schedule

- September 17 meeting
 - Vote on recommendations for council resolution amendment
 - Discuss possible recruitment ideas and letter of interest process
 - Vote to extend commission members' expiring terms until Nov. 30
- Recommendations to Council week of Sept. 20 to add to agenda for October 6 Council meeting
- After Council approves changes:
 - Member recruitment
 - Outreach in October (letter of interest due by Oct. 29)
 - Members vet interest letters and make recommendations to Executive Director (ED) in early November
 - ED approves member recommendations by Nov. 12
 - Vote in new/returning members at Nov. 19 meeting
 - Amend bylaws
 - Bylaw amendments circulated to members by Oct. 7 for voting at October 21 meeting



Proposed Language Amendments

- **WHEREAS**, in furtherance of such action, understanding and accountability, County Council desires that ~~be created with~~ **created** a Delaware County Sustainability Commission (the “DCSC”) ~~be created with~~ **pursuant to a resolution adopted February 19, 2020 (the “2020 Resolution”)** for the stated purpose of providing both review and recommendations to County Council and pertinent County Departments which would, inter alia, include:
 - **WHEREAS**, County Council desires to make certain changes to the 2020 Resolution and amend and restate the 2020 Resolution in its entirety;
8. The DCSC shall comply with the provisions of the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act, 65 Pa.C.S. §§ 701-716 (or any successor provision); **provided, that it may meet by remote means and may post agendas electronically only.**
 9. **The Resolution establishing the DCSC adopted by Council on February 19, 2020, is hereby amended and restated the 2020 Resolution in its entirety, effective as of the date hereof.**



Proposed Language Amendments

1. The following members of County government shall be members of the DCSC:
 - a) Chief Sustainability Officer
 - b) Director of the Facilities Department
 - ~~c) Director of the Central Purchasing Department~~
 - d) Director of the Parks & Recreation Department
 - e) Director of the Planning Department
 - ~~f) Director of the Office of Housing and Community Development~~
 - g) Chief Executive Officer of the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority
 - h) District Manager of the Delaware County Conservation District
 - i) Director of the Delaware County Commerce Center

2. The Delaware County Executive Director shall appoint (and has the power to remove, with or without cause) members of the DCSC as follows:
 - a) Two representatives with expertise and experience in the field of energy efficiency and/or green building practices.
 - b) Two representatives of the general public.
 - c) Two municipal managers **or officials** each representing a **municipality** within the County.
 - d) One **municipal** environmental advisory committee member.
 - e) One representative with expertise and experience in the field of water resource management and or watershed preservation and management.
 - ~~f) One~~ **Two** representatives **representing a historically marginalized community or** with ~~expertise and~~ experience in the field of environmental justice.



Action Items

- Vote on recommendations for council resolution amendment
- Vote to extend commission members' expiring terms until Nov. 30
- Discuss possible recruitment ideas and letter of interest process



DEP Clean Air Hearing



Public Comment: SustainDelco@co.delaware.pa.us

DEP Hearing:

<https://www.dep.pa.gov/About/Regional/SoutheastRegion/Community%20Information/Pages/Covanta.aspx>

On September 3, the Department of Environmental Protection announced it will receive public comments and host a virtual public hearing regarding a Title V/State Operating Permit renewal request for Covanta Delaware Valley, LP, a waste to energy facility in the City of Chester, Delaware County.

The public is invited to participate in this process through a public comment period and a virtual public hearing. The virtual public hearing will be held on Wednesday, September 22 beginning at 6:30 p.m. The hearing will be accessible by both Internet and phone to ensure all stakeholders have access. The WebEx information for the virtual public hearing is available on DEP's Virtual Public Hearings page.

Individuals wishing to provide testimony must contact DEP Community Relations Coordinator John Repetz at jrepetz@pa.gov or 717-705-4904 to register at least 24 hours prior to the hearing. Additional information will be provided to testifiers upon registration. DEP is also accepting written public comments on these amendments, which may be submitted to RA-EPSEROAQpubcom@pa.gov or mailed to the Southeast Regional Office, Air Quality Program, 2 E. Main St. Norristown, PA 19401 until close of business on **Monday, October 4, 2021**.

Covanta Delaware Valley, LP is a permitted waste-to-energy facility currently seeking renewal of its five-year Title V/State Operating Permit. These permits are required under the federal Clean Air Act for any large or major source of air pollution. Covanta submitted its renewal application in December 2020; DEP deemed the application administratively complete in February 2021 and commenced a technical review. The proposed Title V Operating Permit Renewal contains all applicable requirements including monitoring, recordkeeping, reporting, and work practices. It does not authorize any increase in air emissions of regulated pollutants above the previously approved levels.



Clean Air Statement?

The County is drafting a separate statement to submit for public comment.

Does the Commission want to submit a statement?

Calls upon the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) to write the following requirements into Covanta Delaware Valley's Title V Operating Permit No. 23-00004:

1. Covanta must install equipment capable of reducing Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x) emissions to the modern limit of 45 parts per million, as met by the new incinerator they operate in West Palm Beach, Florida.
2. Covanta must install an activated carbon injection system to reduce emissions of dioxins and mercury, and achieve a standard of 15 parts per million, as the trash incinerator in Baltimore, Maryland will soon be required to meet.
3. Covanta must use continuous emissions monitoring technology to measure compliance with standards for particulate matter, dioxins/furans, and toxic heavy metals, including arsenic, cadmium, chromium (VI), lead, mercury, and nickel, and must report this data on a public website within two hours of data collection.



Solid Waste Management Public Hearing 9/30/21



Public Comment: SustainDelco@co.delaware.pa.us

Meeting Details

Agenda:

- 5-min – Council Welcome
- 5-min – Sustainability Commission
- 10-min – Solid Waste Authority
- 5-min – PA DEP
- 5-min – Covanta
- 5-min – Environmental Justice Network
- 90-min – Public Comment

Format:

- In-person meeting with live stream on YouTube.
- Public comment in-person and via email; emails to be shared with Council after hearing.

* Need volunteers: speaking at opening, assisting with logistics in Council room



Sustainability Plan High-Level Goals **Phase 1 Draft**



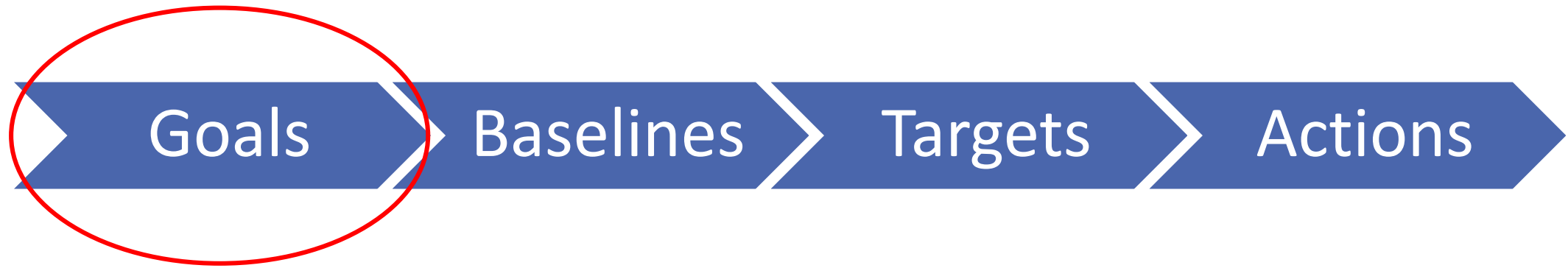
Public Comment: SustainDelco@co.delaware.pa.us

Sustainability Plan Vision

A Sustainable Delaware County is one in which all people:

- have access to quality, energy efficient, and resilient infrastructure and community assets that are powered with renewable energy in connected and safe neighborhoods;
- quality medical care and locally sourced healthy foods are affordable and accessible to all;
- a high quality education is available for lifelong learning and helps all access good, well-paying jobs;
- natural and human systems are deeply connected and thrive;
- and the benefits of a more sustainable future are centered on the needs of those historically most vulnerable and marginalized in our communities.





SPECIFIC

Be clear and specific so your goals are easier to achieve. This also helps you know how and where to get started!



MEASURABLE

Measurable goals can be tracked, allowing you to see your progress. They also tell you when a goal is complete.



ACTIONABLE

Are you able to take action to achieve the goal? Actionable goals ensure the steps to get there are within your control.



REALISTIC

Avoid overwhelm and unnecessary stress and frustration by making the goal realistic.

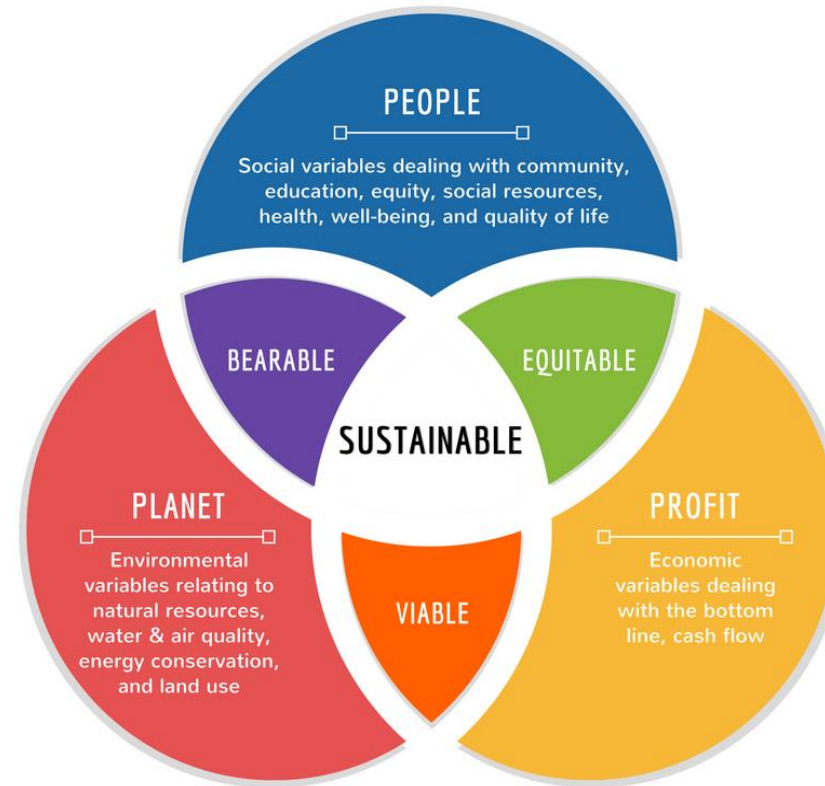


TIMEBOUND

A date helps us stay focused and motivated, inspiring us and providing something to work towards.

3-Verb Goals Description

- Engage = people/equity
- Conserve = planet/environment
- Prosper = profit/economy



Topic Areas

Topic Areas
Health and Wellness
Natural Resources
Transportation
Energy
Waste and Resource Management
Climate Resiliency

Overarching themes:

- Equity and inclusion - Ensure that the County is a socially just and inclusive community, where physical and mental health, social well-being, and the environment are valued, supported, and accessible to all.
- Economic growth - Targeting the benefits of location and resource efficiency initiatives can help the county create jobs and help put people on track to a lower-poverty, higher-wage future. Making these efficiency upgrades creates jobs, both temporary and ongoing. When people can participate in the economy on more than a subsistence level, they are able to fully contribute their talents to the workforce and community.
- Education - Education for sustainable development promotes the development of the knowledge, skills, understanding, values and actions required to create a sustainable world, which ensures environmental protection and conservation, promotes social equity and encourages economic sustainability.
- Governance
 - In municipal comprehensive plans, there is a required section for "plan interrelationships" showing how the comprehensive plan works in tandem with other plans.
 - Expand County government leadership and staffing to implement the Sustainability Plan
 - Leverage the County’s resources and influence to advance sustainability, strengthen internal operations and responsiveness, and lead by example.



Health and Wellness Goals – Phase 1 Draft

Sub-Topic	Goal
Water	Support policies, programs, and collaboration to ensure access to safe, accessible drinking water
Energy Efficiency	Encourage use of weatherization programs that improve indoor air quality and address utility burdens
Health	Improve the overall health and well-being of all County employees, residents, and visitors and eliminate health disparities.
Food	Ensure a sustainable, local, safe, and healthy food supply that is accessible to all and supported by our community.
Place	Improve population health by systematically addressing the link between community health and place, including where we are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age.
Indoor Environments	Reduce the use of potentially hazardous chemical, biological and particle contaminants to improve indoor air quality
Education	Expand community education and engagement on sustainability practices that will help residents live green lifestyles and save money



Natural Resources Goals – Phase 1 Draft

Sub-Topic	Goal
Ecosystems	Protect, restore and expand aquatic and land ecosystems
Public Spaces	Create and maintain accessible parks, recreational waters, public lands, and public spaces that create opportunities for respite, recreation, ecological discovery, and cultural activities
Landscaping	Improve habitats by use of native plants, xeriscaping, and integrated pest management.
Trees	Protect and enhance tree canopy
Water Use	Decrease water consumption
Stormwater	Improve stormwater management and install green infrastructure to reduce the volume of stormwater runoff and encourage rainwater reuse
Land Use	Encourage zoning improvements, regional collaboration, and reuse of commercialized spaces (greyfields) as opposed to new development in undeveloped spaces



Transportation Goals – Phase 1 Draft

Sub-Topic	Goal
Land Use	Facilitate efficient, environmentally friendly, and healthy land use patterns
Investment	Promote policies, programs, and infrastructure investments that prioritize multi-modal, clean, efficient transportation options throughout the County.
Infrastructure	Expand safe, connected infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists to connect with public transit, and to connect neighborhoods with commercial and downtown centers and schools
Use	Increase use of public transit, ride sharing and active (walking, biking) transportation.
Employees	Support and incentivize employee commuting alternatives and discourage less sustainable alternatives.
Emissions	Reduce emissions from vehicles
EVs	Promote electric vehicles, clean fuels, and improve access to electric vehicle charging stations



Energy Goals – Phase 1 Draft

Sub-Topic	Goal
Energy Efficiency	Reduce energy use in buildings and properties within the County
Energy Programs	Promote existing energy-saving program use in buildings and properties
Renewables	Increase percentage of renewable energy provided on- and off-site to buildings and properties within the County
Electrification	Reduce reliance on fossil-fuel burning equipment (or increase electrification of equipment) in buildings within the County
Electrical grid	Encourage modernization of electrical grid for improved efficiency and resilience



Waste and Resource Management Goals – Phase 1 Draft

Sub-Topic	Goal
Purchasing	Increase percentage of materials purchased with recycled content
Minimization	Reduce waste generated in County properties
Reuse	Facilitate local reuse, repair, and recovery of materials
Reduce	Support policies and programs to reduce residential and commercial waste generated per capita
Food Waste	Prevent, reduce, and recover food waste.
Diversion	Increase diversion from landfills (recycling, composting, incineration) – <i>revisit with SWMP consultant for final wording and diversion goals</i>
Economic Growth	Encourage residents and businesses to buy local to support Delaware County's economy



Climate Resiliency Goals – Phase 1 Draft

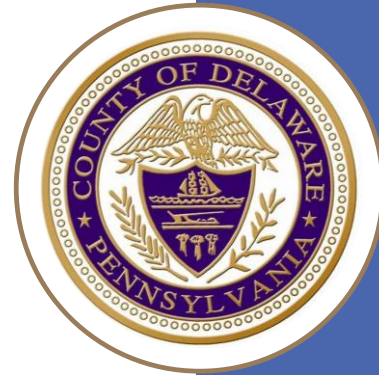
Sub-Topic	Goal
Economic Growth	Grow and diversify the County's economy, focusing on sustainability, climate, and resilience industries
Workforce Development	Provide opportunities for all residents and businesses to support the transition to a green economy through increased employment opportunities and training
Carbon	Achieve net zero carbon emissions (one action for County-owned, one action for encouraging municipalities, one action for educating residents on individual behaviors)
New Construction	Design green building standards and climate resilience considerations into County-funded properties, parks, and infrastructure
Resiliency	Prepare County residents to be more prepared to combat extreme weather events



Next Steps



- Perform assessments and initial outreach based on high-level goals (led by Sharon with help from County Departments and Commission)
- Equity and Inclusion committee - discuss equity statement/goals for sust. plan
- Based on assessments and outreach, adjust high-level goals, add targets with metrics, work on refining actions



Assessments

- Cross-reference goals with Delco 2035 plans for possible actions and metrics, determine current status (example: bike trail plan – how many miles are built out now?)
- Review sustainability plan committee documents for possible metrics
- Meet with internal departments to discuss goals and existing metrics – review possibilities for new metrics
- LCAP GHG emission inventory – completed by Dec. 2021
- Strategy meeting with Sustainability division Directors



Draft Outreach Plan

Internal

- Meeting with 6 operational departments + select groups
- Employee input through focus group meetings
- Brainstorm actions for county operations and community programs with prioritizations

Municipalities

- Initial survey will be done on phone/online meeting with LCAP students: what is the municipality currently doing?
- In-person meetings: introductory, building relationships
- Offer to brainstorm actions with focus group of municipal employees

Public

- Survey general attitudes: action is sign-up for Sustain_Delco's social media
- Ask to attend next EAC meetings: brainstorm actions and prioritization
- Advocacy/NGO group meetings
- Several open public meetings in different areas of county (possibly sponsored by EAC/NGO)



Questions?



Public Comment: SustainDelco@co.delaware.pa.us

Committees

- County-wide sustainability plan
- Zero waste
- Equity and inclusion?



Next Meeting

October 21 at 6:00pm



Public Comment: SustainDelco@co.delaware.pa.us

Other Business/Announcements

- Consideration of mid-month meeting for presentation of FCNA results (week of October 4?)

